

# **CALIFORNIA CHILDREN & FAMILIES COMMISSION**

**Thursday, March 15, 2001  
Employment Development Department  
722 Capitol Mall  
Auditorium  
Sacramento, CA 95814**

## **I. Call to Order.**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Reiner at 8:30 a.m.

## **II. Roll Call.**

Present were Commissioners Kim Belshe, Susan Lacey, Louis Vismara, Ed Melia, Karen Hill-Scott, Theresa Garcia and Chairman Reiner.

## **III. Approval of Minutes, February 15, 2001 State Commission Meeting.**

**MOTION:** Chair Reiner moved, seconded by Commissioner Belshe to approve the February 15, 2001 minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

## **IV. Chairman's Report**

Chairman Reiner reminded all of the county Executive Directors that the statute mandates that all county commissions hold a public hearing on the State Commission's annual report as a requisite to fund disbursements. The State should be notified of the date of the hearing after it has occurred. Staff will be sending out a reminder of this requirement.

The next meeting of the Advisory Committee on Diversity is scheduled for March 29, 2001 in Sacramento. One of the meeting objectives will be to define diversity tenets. The tenets will be further defined at the upcoming planning meeting held April 30th to May 1<sup>st</sup> in Los Angeles.

Chairman Reiner reported on a press conference and Legislative Hearing he participated in, which was held on March 7<sup>th</sup> concerning the Safe From the Start Initiative. Chairman Reiner referenced an article in the LA Times that discusses how early exposure to violence in young children can lead to violence as an adult.

The School Readiness Workgroup will hold its first meeting on March 23, 2001.

## **V. Executive Director's Report**

Jane Henderson reminded the Commission that the meeting start times have been moved to 8:30 AM. Ms. Henderson requested feedback on the new agenda item presentation format. She announced that the State Commission has a remodeled website.

The School Readiness Task Force has had the participation of Supervisor Pete Para from Kern County, Commissioner Rose Kaufman from Los Angeles County, Commissioner Yolanda Garcia from Santa Clara County and Karen Blindstrub, Steve Ladd and Evilyn Martinez. Staff has developed a concept paper that will be made available on the State Commission's web site.

Ms. Henderson provided an update on the Inclusion Project, formerly known as the Inclusion Specialist Project. As requested by the Commission, Staff has revised the concept paper. The Advisory Committee made recommendations on the paper. It has been sent out to all county executive directors with the request that they share it with their commissioners. The workforce composition has not yet been determined.

Ms. Henderson introduced four new members to the Commission Staff. Dr. Jennifer Bell will be working in the Program Management Division. Richard Iniguez and Debra Crisp will be working in the Technical Assistance Unit. Dr. Patricia Skelton is joining the Research Division.

Ms. Henderson provided an update on the matching funds for compensation and retention incentives. Fourteen counties have applied with a combined local investment of almost \$12M and a State match request of almost \$3.5M for a total investment of approximately \$15M going towards teacher and childcare provider compensation and training. The awards will be announced on March 21, 2001. Agreements will be sent out in April 2001. The second intent to apply will be sent out in April, 2001. The RFA for the second round of applications will be released in June 2001 and will be announced in September 2001.

There was some general discussion about how DDS will be represented on the School Readiness workgroup. Staff will investigate this issue further.

## **VI. County Commission Executive Director's Report**

Dorinda Ohnstad reported that the Association's meeting had excellent attendance and as a result is considering a new venue. The TA subcommittee has finalized the TA allocation plan after securing California Endowment funds. The Evaluation Committee has formed a number of work groups. One effort is focused on the development of a website that will be coordinated and linked with the State Commission. The Evaluation SubCommittee held a very successful conference on evaluation. There were 80 people in

attendance. The Legislative Subcommittee has been working together with the State Commission staff to pass legislation to address conflict of interest issues that are restricting the composition of county commissions. The Media Committee has met to start building a regional structure that will allow coordinated effort. Next month's Executive Directors' Retreat members will be convening by media regional groups. It is expected that 49 counties will be participating in the upcoming Executive Directors' Retreat.

## **VII Revised Meeting Calendar 2001 – Proposed Location Schedule**

Joe Munso presented this action item. The item proposed a revised schedule of locations for the Commission's 2001 monthly meetings. (The locations are posted on the CCFC website).

**MOTION:** Chair Reiner moved, seconded by Commissioner Belshe to approve the revised schedule for the Commission's 2001 monthly meetings. The motion passed unanimously.

## **VIII. Annual Calendar for Budget Development**

Joe Munso presented this discussion item. The proposal requests that the State Commission consider a process for an annualized review of Projects/Programs/Proposals that require funding. The proposal will create a funding process for CCFC Commissioners that is consistent, structured and will further enhance the ability of CCFC management to forecast workload related to the development of concept papers, RFPs, contracts, and Interagency Agreements.

The proposed process would also assist CCFC partners by aligning the CCCFC funding approval process to match the twice-yearly formulation of the Governor's Budget and clearly defining:

- When proposals can be received and reviewed by CCFC staff
- When proposals will be considered before the Commission.
- When proposals will be approved and funded.
- When approved proposals will be implemented.
- Allow partners to pursue any necessary budgetary changes as part of their routine budget operations.

Chairman Reiner spoke in favor of restructuring, provided the Commission had the flexibility necessary to handle something that needed immediate attention.

Commissioner Belshe noted that the Commission particularly needs to realign its spending plans in terms of partnerships with state departments, given that some departments are unable to use funds allocated to them by the Commission until they have

state budget authority.

Commissioner Vismara stressed that the September budget presentation report should contain an analysis of which items were signed in the budget so that the State Commission has time to act proactively. Chairman Reiner echoed Commissioner Vismara's comments.

Commissioner Melia noted that this structure would help provide momentum for partnerships with the state through funding suggestions by the Governor.

Jane Henderson said that aligning with the State will aid the Commission in tackling larger issues through partnerships.

#### Public Comment

Gene Lucas expressed concerns that this process appears to be a closed loop system. He noted that this system does not provide proposal timelines/deadlines.

### **IX. Preparation of CCFC Strategic Business Plan for Ongoing Operations**

Joe Munso presented this action item. The Commission considered a request to provide funding for the procuring of contracted assistance in the development and initiation of a Strategic Business Plan for CCFC as discussed at the Commission Retreat held in January.

The proposal requests that up to \$75,000 be approved for contracted assistance that will provide meeting facilitation services, meeting documentation, and targeted consultant services to assist the CCFC in the preparation of a Strategic Business Plan for fiscal year 2001/2002. The contract will be procured through the State of California Master Services Agreement (MSA). This contracted assistance will provide vital structure and insight to the strategic planning process and will be necessary for the timely completion of a concise, complete, forward-thinking and achievable budget and work plan for CCFC.

Chairman Reiner asked if staff had someone in mind with whom to contract. Mr. Munso informed the Commission that the current contract is with R and G, but the contract will go through MSA.

Commissioner Vismara asked if there was a monitoring component. Mr. Munso informed the Commission that the contract does include a monitoring component.

Commissioner Melia asked if Commissioners will be interviewed by the contract contractor as part of the strategic planning process. Mr. Munso informed the Commission that this has not yet been considered.

**MOTION:** Chair Reiner moved, seconded by Commissioner Vismara to approve the \$75,000 for contracted assistance that will provide meeting facilitation services, meeting documentation, and targeted consultant services to assist the CCFC in the preparation of a Strategic Business Plan for fiscal year 2001/2002. The motion passed unanimously.

## **X. Training and Retaining Early Care and Education Providers**

Sarah Neville-Morgan presented this action item. Policy Analysis for California Education (PACE) is proposing an augmentation of \$1,370,725 to extend the Training and Retaining Early Care and Education Providers initiative for an extra ten months through December 31, 2002.

The State Commission approved a total of \$6M for training and retaining early care and education providers in January 2000. PACE has distributed \$4.2M to six training projects in California that implement alternative approaches to expanding the childcare work force. An important goal of this project is to raise the number of teachers and providers by approximately 2,500 providers that would be working with under-served populations, including children whose primary language is not English, infants and children with disabilities and other special needs. With the remaining \$1.8M PACE is conducting two different evaluations. The first evaluates the training projects mentioned above. The second evaluates three California counties to examine changes resulting from efforts to retain early care and education staff. To achieve this objective PACE will oversee nearly 8,000 interviews of training project participants, teachers, providers and center directors. The research questions guiding this work are 1) which training models and components are most effective in recruiting more and more diverse trainees, 2) do stipend recipients stay at their job at a higher rate than those who do not receive stipends, 3) do stipend recipients participate in training or professional development at a higher rate than those that do not receive stipends. The project evaluation will provide recommendations to the State Commission on how a stronger system of state-wide training and retention can be constructed in the future. The proposed augmentation breaks down as follows. The evaluation portion was originally \$770,000 and the augmentation is \$500,300. Evaluation sample sizes are to be expanded. Data collection from new training programs will be collected. Data collection has been expanded in the area of assessing retention programs. Evaluation materials and handbooks are being developed to be shared with the counties. The training projects portion was originally \$4,200,000 and the augmentation amount would be \$450,000. The additional funding would be used to fund additional training capacity in Los Angeles county, an area of high need. The California Early Childhood Mentor program has already been funded to increase capacity. Five additional training sites are proposed. There are other associated costs with these projects.

Commissioner Belshe asked why there was such a long delay in the development of this project. Ms. Neville-Morgan informed the Commission that there were contract delays.

Chairman Reiner asked if, in general, the staff has developed an efficient contract methodology. Ms. Henderson detailed the stumbling blocks of this particular project and the corrective action taken.

Commissioner Melia asked how it was determined that Los Angeles was a high need area. It was determined by a study conducted by PACE.

Bruce Fuller, Berkeley PACE, informed the Commission that PACE collects data from child care centers and family day care homes. Per capita supply for LA county is about half the supply of the Bay Area.

Commissioner Vismara asked if any preliminary data on the research had been submitted to the Commission's staff. Mr. Fuller informed the Commission that PACE has submitted some focus group write-ups. Jane Henderson advised the Commission that as the data are collected, PACE will make the data available to the Commission.

Commissioner Vismara asked for assurances that this would be enough money for complete augmentation. Mr. Fuller informed the Commission that they would not be back for funding for another two years.

Commissioner Belshe inquired why this topic is on the table prior to the upcoming funding assessments. Ms. Neville-Morgan explained that the evaluations need to be done now for comparison purposes.

Commissioner Vismara asked if this proposal included a timeline for when a final report will be submitted. The report will be submitted February 28, 2002.

**MOTION:** Chair Reiner moved, seconded by Commissioner Vismara to approve an augmentation of \$1,370,725 to extend the Training and Retaining Early Care and Education Providers initiative for an extra ten months through December 31, 2002. The motion passed unanimously.

## **XI. Legislative Items**

Patti Huston presented these items. Five Bills were presented for Commission approved positions.

Commissioner Belshe asked how the bills were prioritized. Ms. Houston explained that the C priority bills were identified first. These bills were those that related to the Commission's goals in any way. B priority bills were identified as those bills that

represented systemic changes. Priority A bills were identified as those bills that had the potential of moving through the Legislature to the Governor and had a direct impact on the State Commission or county commissions.

Jane Henderson suggested that there be further discussion on the bill prioritization criteria. She reported that there are projects that would be missed with the current criteria. Staff will discuss this issue further and report back to the Commission.

Commissioner Belshe recommended a cover sheet on each bill identifying the criteria for that the particular bill.

Commissioner Vismara recommended that the criteria include legislation that identifies Proposition 10 funding partnership opportunities.

Commission-sponsored AB 734 and AB 735 (Chan) were presented to the Commission. Handouts describing the bills were distributed to members.

Commissioner Belshe asked how it was that AB 734 resulted in potentially opening up the mass media communications account. Ms. Houston explained that there was a simple wording change in the bill.

AB 685 (Wayne) would require the Department of Social Services to conduct unannounced site visits (evaluations) of family day care homes at least every two years, and as often as necessary to ensure compliance with licensure requirements, by visiting 50% of licensed homes each year. Current law requires this unannounced visit prior to renewal of a family day care home's license (or every three years).

Commissioner Belshe suggested adding funding to include an evaluation component to the visits.

Jane Henderson advised that past budget cuts reduced the number of home care visits and this bill begins to rebuild the number of visits.

General discussion concluded with the consensus that staff should return with an amended bill that includes an evaluation component.

The consensus of the Commission was to adopt a "support if amended" position with respect to this bill.

There was no public comment.

**MOTION:** Chair Reiner moved, seconded by Commissioner Belshe to adopt a "support if amended" position with respect to AB 685. The motion passed unanimously.

AB 892 (Keeley) would require the Superintendent of Public Instruction, California Department of Education (CDE) to develop an equitable process for the awarding of \$50,000 annual sustainability grants to local education agencies (LEAs) or consortia implementing a Healthy Start program site after its 3-5 year operational grant period ends. To be eligible to receive a grant, a LEA or consortium would be required to submit a plan demonstrating that the program meets certain criteria. The bill would require each program site, on an annual basis, to submit a report to the state and its regional network updating the status of the local program in fulfilling the criteria that includes input, process, and outcome indicators and quality assessment. The bill would require the CDE to consider these evaluations and annual expenditure reports when determining eligibility for continued funding. The bill would authorize CDE to retain, for state-level administration of these provisions, 5% of annual appropriations made for purposes of the sustainability grants.

There was no public comment.

**MOTION:** Chair Reiner moved, seconded by Commissioner Lacey to adopt a support position with respect to AB 892. The motion passed unanimously.

AB 973 (Chan) would add to the authorizing statute for Proposition 10 governing Children and Families County Commissions a requirement that County Commissions maintain the confidentiality of any individually identifiable information provided to the County Commission by a parent, legal guardian, health care provider, school, law enforcement agency, social services agency, or any other source, and to prohibit disclosure of information to any entity without the written consent of the parent or legal guardian.

Commissioner Melia noted that if the bill is too restrictive with respect to privacy, it may seriously hinder inter-agency collaboration. He was assured by staff that this bill would not put up barriers to sharing information.

There was no public comment.

**MOTION:** Chair Reiner moved, seconded by Commissioner Belshe to adopt a support position with respect to AB 973. The motion passed unanimously.

Kelly Hicks presented the following bills.

SB 308 (Escutia) states the Legislature's intent to provide sufficient funding through an appropriation in the annual Budget Act to fund the cost of providing high quality child care and development services for all income-eligible Californians by January 1, 2006. The bill also requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction, in collaboration with appropriate agencies and children's advocates, including the CCFC, to create and submit a plan detailing the provision of high quality child care by May 1, 2002.



SB 390 (Escutia) requires the California Department of Education (CDE), in consultation and collaboration with specific state agencies, local governments, the California Children and Families Commission, California Children and Families County Commissions, and others to develop, by January 1, 2003, a State Master Plan for Child Care and Development Services. Furthermore, SB 390 entails the formation of an oversight commission, which also includes the CCFC, to regularly meet for production of the plan.

Chairman Reiner asked for clarification on the role of the Commission with respect to SB 390. Emily Nahat stated that the Commission would participate in the workgroup, but not lead it. She stated that the Commission would not be required to provide funding.

#### Public Comment

Gene Lucas express concerns over funding possibilities for SB 390 (Escutia).

Kate Ertzburger, Contra Costa Child Care Council, spoke in support of the subsidy bill.

Donita Stromgren stated that last year when the Resource and Referral Network and the Law Center sponsored SB1703, it was not expected to be completely funded, however, \$80M was placed in the budget.

Bonny Tailor, Sierra Nevada Children Services, spoke in support of AB 308.

**MOTION:** Chair Reiner moved, seconded by Commissioner Belshe to adopt a support position with respect to SB 308. The motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Chair Reiner moved, seconded by Commissioner Vismara to adopt a support position with respect to SB 390. The motion passed unanimously.

## **XII. Support for Website Assistance to County Commissions**

Anthony Souza presented this discussion item. This proposal requests that up to \$150,000 be approved for the procurement of contracted website development and maintenance services to assist CCFC staff in the provision of website related technical assistance to the County Commissions. CCFC would utilize this funding and either the State of California Master Services Agreement or the California Multiple Award Schedule to enter into a time and materials based long-term contract with an Information Technology vendor to assist CCFC staff during peak workload times and when specialized services are required.

Commissioner Hill-Scott asked if any of the county commissions are using their own funds for web development. She also asked if there was a formula used to determine how much funding is required for each county. Mr. Souza informed the Commission that there are roughly 40 county websites in existence and that the State Commission is supporting approximately half of those sites. The individual counties fund the other websites.

Commissioner Vismara asked how many hits these county commission websites are getting. Mr. Souza reported that there is currently no central database recording this information. There are other service providers that have this information.

Commissioner Melia asked for a time frame clarification. Jane Henderson informed the Commission that the current time frame was in keeping with presenting a discussion item before an action item.

Commissioner Hill-Scott asked if web training had been offered to the individual counties. Mr. Souza informed the Commission that training has been provided to some counties and that further training is available.

Commission Hill-Scott inquired if intranet possibilities had been considered for increased collaboration. Mr. Souza informed her that a message board may be developed and that the possibility of an intranet is being considered.

### **XIII. Positive Outcomes for Children with Disabilities and Other Special Needs**

Emily Nahat presented this discussion item. In November 2000, the State Commission directed staff to obtain consulting services to develop a plan that recommends specific high priority investments for the State Commission to consider in serving children with disabilities and other special needs and to conduct related activities. Staff initiated a small contract to begin this process. In discussing CCFC's proposed scope of work with San Francisco State University and Sonoma State University, the two institutions collaborated to develop a proposal for a three-year planning, consulting and technical assistance project. Their scope of work for each year was similar to that described in Attachment 2 (distributed to members and the public). CCFC staff advised the potential contractor that our immediate objective is to obtain recommendations for a focused agenda to support young children with disabilities and other special needs and their families and to obtain some level of support for activities of the State Commission and Advisory Committee on Diversity. CCFC staff asked Sonoma State to narrow the scope to a one-year project for review by the Advisory Committee on Diversity. During its February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2001 meeting, the Advisory Committee on Diversity reviewed the one-year proposal and approved it in concept. Furthermore, the Executive Committee of the California Children and Families Association reviewed the component for the provision of technical assistance to County Commissions and indicated an interest in that service

but identified no specific or immediate need for such assistance.

The proposal includes strategic recommendations, consultation to the State Commission, Advisory Committee on Diversity and staff, and technical assistance to County Commissions. Three funding options were presented. Option 1 included funding the full scope of work. Option 2 included funding to complete only the first component of the proposal. Option 3 included option 2 with the addition of funding for technical consultation to the Advisory Committee on Diversity and the State Commission.

Chairman Reiner asked how much of the \$142,972 intended for technical support would be needed immediately for local commissions and how much would be money based on findings. Most of the funds would be for immediate needs of the county commissions.

Commissioner Belshe stated that option 3 would be derived from the preceding options.

Commissioner Hill-Scott asked how the option 3 funding amount was determined. Emily Nahat stated that the whole amount might not be required.

Commissioner Vismara requested the breakdown between Sonoma and San Francisco State. Ms. Nahat informed the Commission that the proposal is being presented as a joint proposal. Commissioner Vismara asked if his concerns expressed earlier regarding disabilities are identified in the scope of work for the strategic plan. Ms. Nahat informed the Commission that these issues were identified in the scope of work.

Chairman Reiner reiterated his concerns over funding the technical assistance portion of this proposal before knowing what technical assistance is needed.

Commissioner Vismara expressed interest in an analysis of existing programs that have been funded at the local level.

Commissioner Hill-Scott commented that the framing of the “technical assistance” will be important in how the action item will be addressed.

Commissioner Vismara requested that some of the county commissioners be present at the next Diversity Committee to address some of these issues. Jane Henderson stated that staff could coordinate this with the three county commissioners on the Diversity Committee.

Commissioner Melia expressed the need for focus on local methodologies with respect to this issue.

Emily Nahat asked the Commission if it is in support of option 3. Chairman Reiner confirmed that the Commission supports option 3 of the proposal.

#### **XIV. Communication Director's Report**

Kristina Schake presented this report. In the last three months staff has been conducting an intensive research process in order to have a better idea of the development of the next phase of the add campaign. Phase one is presently underway. To date, 38 focus groups have been completed throughout the state in a variety of languages in order to establish benchmarks. Focus groups have looked particularly at behaviors and trends in the context of behavior changing ad campaigns. The effectiveness of messages and messengers is also being tested. Native American focus groups are not being conducted at this point. The next phase is a 2000 household telephone survey in several languages. The survey will be completed by mid May. This will help in the determination of concepts to be developed in the next phase of the public awareness campaign. Phase three will be testing of these concepts with target audiences. The production phase will begin in June. Staff will come back to the Commission with a report in April. The ads are targeted to be on the air in July. Staff would like a transition media spot based on concepts developed last year. The spot would be primarily on television.

Commissioner Vismara asked if there was an analysis of the prior media spots. Ms. Schake advised that there has been some analysis and the ads have been found to be successful.

Commissioner Belshe asked what has been learned about issues of knowledge and attitudes around early care and education. Ms. Schake informed the Commission that staff will present a detailed report covering this topic next month.

Commissioner Vismara asked how the focus groups viewed the concept of language development. Ms. Schake advised that this topic will be covered in next month's meeting.

This next media campaign will be on air for 2.5 years.

Commissioner Vismara asked if the concepts that are currently being developed will eventually be woven into the tapestry of school readiness. Ms. Schake stated that that is the mandate of the Commission.

Ms. Schake informed the Commission that the model of academic success was not well received by some groups. These groups felt that they were being told what their child should be and felt turned off by these messages.

Commissioner Vismara asked how people react to new information. Ms. Schake informed the Commission that this is where the messenger mattered most.

A general discussion followed on the topic of the effects of early exposure to music on child development.

The final public relations contract will be awarded on March 16. Once this is complete then other interested parties will be contacted in an attempt to ascertain the details, if any, which kept them from submitting an RFP. There were only 2 proposals submitted. Staff will present more information in April regarding public relations.

#### Public Comment

Gene Lucas noted that none of the material was sent to public television or other public access media. Ms. Schake presented the reasons that these steps were not taken at that time. These types of media will be included in the future.

Gene Lucas reminded the Commission that there is a good series on teenage pregnancy that was developed years ago that should be rebroadcast.

### **XV Update on the Childhood Asthma Initiative**

Barbara Marquez introduced a progress report on the Childhood Asthma Initiative. Dr. Eileen Yamada, from the Department of Health Services, Prevention Services, presented the following statistics on asthma prevalence and death rates. Over the last 15 years, children under five have experienced an increase of 150% in asthma prevalence and death rates. Asthma is the leading cause of hospitalizations in young children. 50 to 80% of children with asthma exhibit signs before the age of five. The onset of asthma is not yet preventable, though there are expert guidelines for the management of asthma. Treatment of asthma is complex and involves the use of inhalers as well as controlling environmental factors. Eight different communities and three different clinic groups will be funded through Community Asthma Intervention and the Asthma Treatment Services respectively. Dr. Yamada described the Community Asthma Intervention program and Dr. Kathy Chance described the Asthma Treatment Services program. The Community Asthma Intervention program focuses on collaboration between community members and organizations, health care delivery providers and systems, local health departments, childcare community and preschools, and local county Children and Families Commissions. They are community specific and include evaluation components. Asthma Treatment Services focuses on coverage of asthma medical management for uninsured infants and children with persistent asthma from birth to five years. The programs services will include outpatient visits, medications, and supplies for administering medications. Both programs target areas with significant numbers of young children with asthma, with significant numbers of low-income families and large numbers of Latino and African American children. The program is currently working on a clinic and encounter data form, which will capture all of the data elements the project will be tracking and reporting. A system to process the data is also being finalized.

The project is also involved with the development, distribution and implementation of the Child Health and Disabilities Prevention Asthma Health Assessment Guidelines. Seven orientations for all the CHD programs' staff have been scheduled for these guidelines. Monitoring of screening referral, enrollment of uninsured children in programs and issues that emerge around referral are included as part of the assessment. The background of the Asthma Treatment Services program and their affiliations with different clinics and organizations throughout California were discussed. Dr. Chance provided an update on the projects headed by Dr. Richard Kreutzer of Environmental Health Investigations. His work follows a longitudinal study, which looks at the factors having to do with the onset of asthma. Dr. Chance also reported that Dr. Kreutzer is developing a survey of childcare practices and knowledge in order to develop educational materials for childcare centers to better serve children with asthma.

Commissioner Hill-Scott expressed some concern that key community based organizations may have been overlooked when the funding structure was set up. Commissioner Belshe suggested that partners involved in assessing the insurance status of children and individuals who make referrals to Healthy Families and MediCal, be required to be certified as application assistants.

## **XVI School Readiness Activities**

Commissioner Hill-Scott called attention to the fact that the Commission is simultaneously planning, implementing and conceptualizing issues surrounding school readiness. The characteristics of the school readiness work group include openness to ideas, a broad conceptualization of what school readiness is, and breadth of participation in terms of who will be on the work group that helps develop the plan itself. It will also be characterized by an integration of research on children, parents and families, and of the demography of the state. The report will be visionary as well as utilitarian. Judi Stucki provided an update on the Master Plan for School Readiness. Ms. Stucki discussed the work group participant list, which we approved and posted on the joint committee's website [www.sen.ca.gov/masterplan](http://www.sen.ca.gov/masterplan). Each of the seven work groups will have space on the website for membership rosters, meeting dates and notes from meetings that have been held.

Ronda Garcia, Contra Costa Child Care Council, requested that evaluations and progress indicators be put in place for the School Readiness Master Plan.

Commissioner Theresa Garcia presented a brief report on a School Readiness Task Force Meeting that was held on Monday, March 12, 2001, which focused on partnering with the Governor. At this meeting, Chair Reiner sought strong support and visible partnering with the School Readiness Initiative. The Governor remains committed to working with the Prop 10 Commission. Ms. Garcia reported that the initial part of the meeting focused on the discussion paper and its budgets and options. Also discussed was the possibility

of doing short-term and long-term plans for a proposal that would go to the Governor. The short-term plan could determine statutory and regulatory state or federal issues having to do with the proposed School Readiness Centers. It was determined that a working definition of School Readiness and achievement indicators should be identified.

Executive Director Jane Henderson discussed the further development of the concept paper, which would include feedback from the State and County Commissions and from the School Readiness Initiative Advisory Committee. The proposal would possibly come back to the Commission in May or June to build in to the Commission's July budget. Ms. Henderson provided a brief overview of the concept paper. The goal of the Commission is to reduce and eliminate administrative barriers to integration of services and identify funds to match Prop 10 dollars to increase resources.

Commissioner Hill-Scott suggested that the concept paper open with a headline statement describing the initiative. She also suggested that resources be stacked together by Prop 10 and then use general fund monies to glue it together. Ms. Hill-Scott suggested that a statement, which would include data collection time points and indicators, be included in the concept paper.

Commissioner Belshe expressed approval for the concept, but expressed regrets that the near term approach is going to be focusing on Proposition 10 resources. Commissioner Belshe discussed the issue of readiness of schools. She suggested that the Commission use some of its resources to bring schools that meet basic readiness criteria to a higher level. Commissioner Belshe asked how the Commission can balance its interests in the use of best practices and promising practices. One approach may be to provide a menu of best practices known to be effective.

Jane Henderson requested that the Commission provide input as to how the Commission's unspent money be allocated.

A general discussion followed on how the unspent money could be allocated.

Commissioner Melia spoke in support of bending resources within the Administration toward target communities. He stressed that dialogue with locals is a key issue in determining what and where resources are needed.

Jane Henderson stated that quality standards are in place and one of them could be that the program is appropriate to the population being served. Sometimes there is a mismatch between program and population. There are many different programs and as long as they are done with the defined standards of success then that will allow local communities to package the elements of the initiative in such a way as to bring in as many local resources as possible. She envisioned doing this through a Request for Application (RFA) process. It should not be competitive, but will have clearly defined standards. This would be an on-going grant program. Technical assistance needs would

also have to be addressed.

Commissioner Belshe suggested identifying statutory and regulatory barriers to the core elements of school readiness. Commissioner Belshe requested that staff arrange for a presentation on AB 1741 to be made to the Commission. Staff was also instructed to ensure the participation of those who would be directly affected by AB 1741.

#### Public Comment

An unidentified speaker stressed that the problem with teachers not reaching their teaching goals is not the teachers' problem but rather the fact that the children are not ready for school and it is here that resources need to be focused.

Lucy Ann Flemming, Los Angeles County Commission, commented that most of the State Commissioners are aware of how much the LA County Commission strategic planning process is in sync with the State Commission. Ms. Flemming echoed the comments of Commissioner Hill-Scott and Jane Henderson regarding county coordination.

Commissioner Hill-Scott pointed out that even the counties that appear to be ready have transaction costs so that the notion of planning grants should be extended to every single project on an as-needed basis.

The next meeting will be held on April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2001 in Sacramento.

#### **XVII. Adjournment**

There being no further business, upon motion by Chairman Reiner, seconded by Commissioner Vismara, the meeting adjourned at 3:05pm.